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Common Sense Computers

It has been disclosed that John A. McCone, director of the Central Intelligence Agency, in testimony before the Warren Commission, recommended the use of computers and processing equipment to improve communications between Federal intelligence agencies.

That suggestion may have much merit but McCone and another CIA official made a significant disclosure that suggests computers will never replace common sense.

McCone and Richard M. Helms, deputy CIA director, acknowledged that the CIA had very little information on Lee Harvey Oswald prior to the assassination and that the State Department had not kept the CIA informed of Oswald's defection, his stay in Russia and subsequent return to this country.

Helms stated that the State Department was not required to make such information available to the CIA.

Required or not, it is hard to understand why information of this type would not have been passed on to the CIA voluntarily.

Presumably (but in Washington you can never be sure) this intelligence loophole has now been closed. Maybe they can build a little common sense into those communications computers.